G.R.S. IX—5]

Previous references.

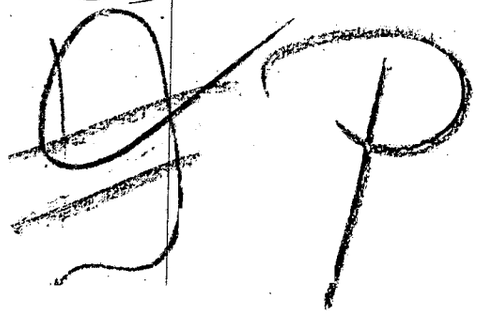
1923.

(CB)

File No. 54/23

Serial Nos. 60

Later references.



GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 60

Part B for Dec. 1923

SUBJECT

Farewell entertainment given by the Literary Union of Bangalore to the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri

CB 1093

Office of the Deputy Commissioner and
Dist. Magistrate, Bangalore Dist.

No.J.C.700/21-22 Dated Bangalore, 23rd December 1923.

CA 56-23-60.

Dear Si

Yesterday in the Government High School a meeting was held under the presidency of Rajasabhabhushana Dewan Bahadur K. P. Puttanna Chetty under the ausnices of the Literary Union of Bangalore when the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. S. Srinivasa Sastry was given a farewell entertainment. Amin-ul-mulk Mr. Mirza Mahammad Ismail and Rajamanthra Pravina Mr. Justice Chandrasekhara Aiyar, Chief Judge of Mysore were present on the platform. Mr. Puttanna Chetty Mr. Shankaranarayana Rao. Mr. Abdur Rahmon and Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao made speeches. The Rt.Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastry in responding to the farewell speeches spoke rather strongly on the Kenya question. The expressions used were however within the law as was to be expected from a person in the position of Mr. Srinivasa Sastri. Mr. Srinivasa Sastry said at the end that he spoke as he did, since the Kenya decision affected the rights of Mysoreans also in Kenya. Mr. Puttanna Chetty in delivering thanks to Mr. Srinivasa Sastry for what he called "his full dress speech" said inter alia that it was a political speech and that we in Mysore are not immediately interested in British Indian politics. have reported the facts for the information of Government.

Yours sincerely,

B Lakshmana Rao

To

K. Matthan, Esq., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Deputy Commissioner's Office,

No.J.C.700/En.6.

Bangalore, 29th December 1923.

CB 1126

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit herewith for the information of Government a copy of report No.28 received on 26th December 1923 from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City, together with its enclosures re the speech of the Rt.Hon'ble Mr.V.S.Srinivasa Sastri and of the condolence meeting convened to express sorrow at the demise of the late Mr.Kasturi Rangaiyengar, Editor of the Hindu.

Yours Sincerely,

Senior Assistant Commissioner,
in charge Bangalore District.

To

B. Nagappa, Esq., Bar-at-law,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore,

(in charge), Bangalore.

No.28.

R E P O R T.

I beg to state tha t the Literary Union of Bangalore organized a public meeting at Government Collegiate High School Bangalore on 22nd December 1923 to bid farewell to Rt.Hon'ble V.S.Srinivasa Sastri on the eve of his departure from the City, under the presidentship of Rajasabha Bhushana Dewan Bahadur K.P.Puttanna Chetty.

It was expected that the Rt.Hon'ble gentleman would not venture to speak on British Politics, and would only confine himself in thanking the hospitality kindly offered to him by the Mysore State and to the kindness of the Literary Union for having honoured him that evening by meeting him. The President in introducing him to the audiance enlogised the valuable services rendered by the guest of the evening in the cause of India.

Mr. Shankar Narayana Rao, Government Advocate and Mr. Abdul Rahiman, Honarary President of Bangalore District Board also spoke about the good services of the guest of the evening towards uplift of India and Indians in General.

Then the guest of the evening made a speech in answer, during the couse of which he entered upon certain British Politics. I tried to get the verbatum copy of his speech from the short hand typist who was present at the time and took notes, but was not able to get him. The same appeared in the "Hindu" of 24th 25th instants a cutting of which is enclosed for kind perusal. Sub-Inspector B.S.Sadasiva Rao was present at the speech and he asserts as far as he heard that the matter published is correct. This report is enclosed for kind perusal.

This Rt.Hon'ble gentleman left this for Poona on 24th night.

A condolence meeting was held in Chamarajpet at Sri Ramaswra Temple on24th December 1923 under the presidency of Mr.S.S.Setlur. There were about 15 members present. No Political matter was discussed.

" Copy"

Senior Assistant Commissioner
In charge Bangalore District.

sd /- Mahomed Hussain,
Assistant Superintendent of Police,
Bangalore.

Report

A Meeting was held this evening at about 5-45 p.m. in front of Rameswara Temple to express the deep felt sense of Sorrow at the death of Mr Kasthuri Ranga Iyengar. There were about 15 men present chief among whom were Messers S.S. Setlur, Gundu Rao K Narayana Iyengar (Caxton Press)

The following resolution was moved by Mr V.S. Lanjewa Rao on behalf of the members that were present.

This meeting records its heart felt and grateful appreciation of the valuable services of Mr Late Kasturi Ranga Iyengar a great journalist and its sense of the irreparable loss sustained by his premature death and offers Sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

(Sd) V. Krishna Swamy.
Sub-Inspector.

D/24.12.23.

Copy,
Asst Superintendent of Police
Bangalore City.

Report

Hon'ble Mr. V. S. Sastry who had come here from Madras for change of climate, left Basavangudi last night for Poona

Submitted
S/d V. Krishnaswamy
" Sub-Inspector
Accountant
C. D. Inspector of Police

Copy
Attested
Asst Superintendent of Police
Bangalore City

Submitted to the Assistant Superintendent of police, Bangalore city

As per orders I attended the meeting held in the Govt Coll: High School on 22nd 12.23 to bid farewell to the Right Hon'ble V.S. Srinivasa Sastry on the eve of his departure from Bangalore city.

I heard Mr Sastry's Speech and I wanted to get a Copy of the Speech from the Shorthand reporter that was present for your kind perusal. As I was not able to get the same I have herewith submitted for kind perusal Cuttings from "The Hindu" dated 24th & 25th inst which contains the Speech of Mr Sastry made on that occassion and So far as I have read I Consider this contains the full Statement made by Mr on the occassion

Sd) B.S. Sadasivaiah
Sub-Inspector.

Dt. 26.12.23.

Copy

Asst Superintendent of police
Bangalore city.

Hindu. dated 24.12.23

THE KENYA FAILURE.

MR. SASTRI ON THE IMMIGRATION BILL.

WHY BRITAIN YIELDED TO THE WHITES.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.)

BANGALORE, Dec. 24.

The Literary Union of Bangalore held a largely atended public meeting to bid farewell to the Right Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri on the eve of his departure from the city after a stay of about three months.

Mr. Sastri who apparently is well in the course of a speech said that he came to Bangalore a sick man but he believed he was returning from Bangalore a whole man. He leaves the city for Poona on the 24th instant.

After some remarks of personal character Mr. Sastri said "Having failed and not as some of you said succeeded in the mision entrusted to me I feel like a person who has fallen from high estate. You gave me a great commission. I went forth knowing that it was difficult knowing too that many another stronger and braver fighter for India's cause gladly avoided it. I knew that I should fail. But I undertook the task because I knew that my failure would not matter, that perhaps through my failure somebody after me would be enabled to build up success that you and and your children of the future might really cherish as one of India's achievements within the Empire.

Don't expect me to go fully into the recent history of this Kenya affair. But you will forgive me fi I make a few observations which I cannot keep back in this my first public speech after an enforced but temporary retirement. Well, Kenya lost everything is lost. You have been reminded of that expression of mine more than once this evening. I really feel that in this case of Kenya a good deal is bound up of vital importance to the whole future history of this country. It is difficult for me to speak with moderation upon a subject touching so deeply not merely our interests but our pride as Indian citizens. I will however forbear to use language that might seem to abuse the hospitality of an Indian State, but some observations I must make on this occasion.

Some one said that the history of this Kenya betrayal might be read in a public document. Believe me, friends, if you wish to know the real inwardness of this affair do not pay any attention to that faliginous document which they call white paper. It does not contain true history at all. The actual facts at the bottom of the case will not be found in the discussions that ensued in Parliament, they will not be found in respectable newspapers of Great Britain; they will not be found, no, not an allusion to them in the vast flood of oratory that marked the proceedings of the last Imperial Conference. No reference has been made in these solemn papers to the fact that the British Cabinet gave this decision because the white people in Kenya threatened rebellion. I do not say that

been able to give the component parts truer values and more accurate places and to piece together those and other features in a picture. My education in things Burman has been the advantage of conversations about Burma with your present

The white paper discusses the question on its merits, on its previous history. No reference however is to be made to this subject. When I caring only for truth and for India's honour mentioned it for the first time in a public audience they all seemed aghast. They seemed to think that I was giving utterance to something which ought to be hidden from public gaze. They were evidently not proud of the transaction. They certainly were very angry with me. Friends and critics, newspaper oracles, members of Parliament, those who were glad any time to welcome me in the street and shake hands with me as a fellow citizen, all thought that I had been guilty of the sin of a most grievous description, much like the sensitive daughter-in-law in a family who having received a beating from husband smarted under it, no doubt, but smarted far more because the brother-in-law and sister-in-law had been looking on. The British Cabinet and the public of London were not so ashamed of their having yielded to fear and inflicted grievous wrong on India. They were far more angry because I had taken the world into my confidence.

And now what are our defenders doing? The Government of India, all honour to them, stood by us to the very end of the discussions. Perfectly, they gave us every moral support they could. But when the time for talk had gone and the time for something substantial had come, when we had to tell the British Cabinet that if one side threatened rebellion we should at least threaten a little trouble, when the time had come to say that, our Government necessarily shrank back. You could not expect the agents of British Cabinet to take up that attitude. Then let me tell you for the first time more vividly than ever, for the first time more stirringly than ever, I felt that if we were to win our way in the world we ought to have a different Governmen together. What is the state of things to-day?

"Now that the matter is gone let us not weep over it because all is not lost. There is the Immigration Bill coming on. We will discuss it threadbare, attack all its provisions from A to Z. We will see what Kenya people will do and what the British Cabinet will do." We are going certainly to have thick books filled with discussion about Clause A and exception B and explanation C. But I assure you it is the case of the young boy who was told to hold a runaway bull but was foolish enough to let the nose rope go and then hung on for all he was worth by its tail. You know what will happen to that innocent young adventurer. Well the people of India and the Government of India are in no better case. When the British Cabinet allowed the Kenya Government to control our immigration on one pretext or another the case was gone. The horse had been stolen, you might shut door bang hundred times after, but you could not recover it by any discussion, however meticulous, however ably conducted, of the provisions of the Immigration Bill. I do not say that nobody should care about it. I do not say that the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Bombay for instance must not busy itself with the necessary representations to the authorities of Kenya. Let them by all means do so.

(Message incomplete.)

THE KENYA FAILURE.

BRITISH JUSTICE.

HOW TO MOBILISE IT.

MR. SASTRI'S SPEECH AT BANGALORE.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.)

The following is the continuation of he Rt. Hon. V.S. S. Sastri's speech at he Bangalore Literary Union published a p. 8 of yesterday's issue:—

Proceeding to comment on the Trusteeship arguments Mr. Sastri, said:—

Then they said that it was necessary o administer Kenya in the interests of he African native and that for that purpose it might be necessary to control immigration as a theoretical proposition we had no alternative but to agree and we might willingly and gladly agree as a people long accustomed to the galling chains of subjection and anxious therefore to help anybody, even Kenya natives, to get back their rights from white aggressors. We could well agree to that and we did. But the point was this, that the unhappy African native had his only friends amongst Indians, that the white settler there is a land grabber, that he is a political tormentor whose one business is to oppress, to keep down, to make selfish laws, to exact labour from poor people there, to use their energies for his own benefit; in other words to use the language of one of their accredited spokesman "having stolen the lands of the native, the next thing was to steel his limbs". If immigration was to be controlled, the immigration of the White men was to be controlled and not that of the Indian. That is an attitude that we ought to have taken and that is an attitude that we should yet take in the matter. I impressed it several times in London. I had nothing to conceal and I will say that again.

PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S INCAPACITY

But there comes the trouble. Do you expect Lord Reading to say so for you? Do you expect Lord Reading and his Government to say that if immigration has to be controlled, it has to be in the case of Whites and not of Indians? Everyone of them might feel so and I believe in my heart of hearts that everyone does believe it, but nobody dares to say it, and yet if we are to win in this case that is the thing, however unpleasant, to be said. There again comes a handicap of our having a Government which can only go a short way in championing our rights, which cannot speak the full truth, which cannot speak as you and I would, which cannot tell the British Cabinet "be impartial, be unjust, if you dare and tell your own people not to do wrong". There is another point that is being forced upon my attention. However unwilling I was to recognise it in such vivid colours in the past, I can no longer conceal from myself that without a Government that we could make and unmake as free peoples we are bound to it ought to be increased and I am perfectly willing when the time comes to give my vote for 6". Who knows ten years hence or twenty years hence another enterprising man may come forward & tell us we will give you 8 and twenty years after that a still more beneficent minded statesman may be willing to go ahead and venture to vote for 9 so that in about two or three centuries we shall reach the figure 11. Now that man was first sincere. He thought that it was good enough progress for the Indian. An Anglo-Indian civilian here told me "if you want increased Indianisation you are now say about 11 per cent. in the services, you get it raised to 12 or 13 if you please and be done with it. Don't disturb us for another generation". Well that is the way they have begun to talk to us. They do not deny the justice of our case. Only they are somewhat disquieted when we wish to rush along at this furious rate, threatening the peace of India and the safety of the Empire and are willing to agree to "more wholesome better ordered rate of progress".

LET BRITAIN KEEP ENGAGEMENTS

Now I come to the most pathetic part of the whole thing. There are some amongst us who believe that for one reason or another "we must bide our time, and obtain our due. It may be more slowly than we wish. If finally we are sure that we shall get the thing let us be content to march at even a slower rate than heretofore." Let me tell you frankly that I am one of those who sympathise with this line of argument. I also have always spoken for peaceful and constitutional progress and I believe examining my heart so minutely as I myself can, I am still on the side of peaceful and constitutional progress. I am quite willing that we should move slowly provided that we are sure that our forces were set in the right direction and that day by day, year by year, we left things behind that were in the front and got along to positions which seemed too far off, provided that we were sure we were moving and moving ahead. But 'are we sure' is the whole question? I thought we were. I do not think so any more, and therein lies my apprehension for the future. The Englishmen having once been generous is now afraid of his own generosity. He thinks he has given too much and there is a disposition in England which I am thankful is not universal, but is undesirably prominent amongst Die-hards and Tories who now wield the destinies of the Empire. There is a disposition on their part now to think that if they cannot actually take back, it is best to keep things stationary. You may plead justice, equality and the necessity of fidelity to promise and pledges and engagements. That does not touch the hardened Briton when he is bent on safeguarding his vested interests. I have seen it. Justice and Equality, very well, fine things these. All homage is due to them and the Englishman is ready with his homage as well, but if a conflict wth his interests arises, if without open bare-faced denial he could keep off, the evil day, he will by every means in his power. That may be human nature and some of you may say we are no better perhaps. We are not anyhow, we have not been keeping an Empire, we do not wish to preserve the rights stolen from other people. We do not wish to aggress and therefore let us speak with our limited experience and not test ourselves also made appeal to some other sense, so that two or three senses quite awake to the situation and acting together might do some little justice, and how did these people in Kenya behave when their rights were threatened? No, not their rights, let me say their unjust privileges. They did the same thing. They gave notice to their Governor that if he was going to give anything like equal treatment to Indians or carry out laws to that effect framed by the British Cabinet he also would be treated in the same gentle way in which the Viceroy of India was to have been treated on the Ilbert Bill occasion. They had everything ready for seizure, not only of the Governor, but of his senior officials. Their places of detention were actually fixed. That is the way in the British Empire their own people, when they went things done, go about the business.

One of you (heroically inclined) may say, "if I should do such thing tomorrow what will be my fate? I cannot promise him the treatment that they gave for instance to Lord Delamare in London. Lord Delamare was received everywhere. His words were listened to as if they were gospel truths. He had a seat in the House of Lords. The Duke of Devonshire was smilingly sweet on him; so was the Colonial Office from top to bottom. There was nothing that Lord Delamere could not do and yet it was Lord Delamere who as Executive Councillor in Kenya, had taken the oath of allegiance to his Majesty, had promised to administer laws and to do nothing to disturb the peace of the public and so forth and the man whose duty it was to preserve the public peace that had presided at countless meetings where the White people threatened to rebel. He had himself presided and assisted at these peaceful proceedings. He was the man who, if ordinary law had prevailed, should have been treated in a manner in which some thousands and thousands of our people are being treated today.

"IF ONLY SKIN WERE WHITE".

I cannot promise you a treatment of that kind from the Government of Lord Reading, but you know where you are exactly. You could do things if only your skin were white which you cannot think of doing being what you are. But within your limitations, within the law, within the limits recognised as allowable to those who are struggling to regain lost liberties, who are struggling to obtain slow fulfillment of pledges of long standing and of solemn import, there is plenty which we non-officials may do if it was the right sort of Government. There is plenty for us to be doing night and day and it will be my proud privilege when I have left your kind and hospitable neighbourhood to take my humble place amongst those who fight these peaceful and constitutional battles.

May be I have done wrong to pour into the contented and placid ears of citizens of the model state of India moanings and wailings of my anguished spirit, but I think that question of Indians overseas affects Native States as well as British India. Moreover I look forward to a time not far distant when the distinction between British India and Indian India will be one of form and not of substance. I look forward to a time not far distant when you will consider yourselves in daily life and not merely in